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## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:

PP/C/ICD

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

NO.

DATE

| TO              | ROOM NO | DATE     | OFFICER'S INITIALS | COMMENTS |
|-----------------|---------|----------|--------------------|----------|
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| 2.<br>DD/P file |         |          |                    |          |
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9 June 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEFS, ALL AREA AND IO DIVISIONS

ATTENTION: PP CHIEFS

SUBJECT: Additional Guidance on Recent Developments in Guatemala

1. Attached hereto is background information and propaganda guidance on recent developments in Guatemala. Earlier guidance and background on this subject was contained in CPP memorandum of 7 June, subject: Recent Developments in Guatemala.

2. In connection with this guidance, particular emphasis should be placed on identifying Guatemalan President Arbenz personally with the statements by Guatemalan communists that they will "behead anti-communists" when the time comes. This identification can be derived from the fact that, although Arbenz did not make the statement, neither he nor any other responsible official has chosen to repudiate it.

Acting Chief  
Political and Psychological Warfare Staff

Attachment:  
As described

Distribution:

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CEE - 17
CFE - 16
CNE - 24
CSE - 10
CSR - 6
CWE - 13
C/WE/PP - 1
WH [ 1
IO - 2
C/IO-1 - 1
C/IO-2 - 1

PP/AD - 1
PP/C/ECW - 1
PP/ECW - 1
PP/ICD/UNS - 1
PP/PP/ART - 1
RQM/OIS [ ] - 1
RQM/OIS [ ] - 1
RQM/OIS [ ] - 1
TAB. Lib. - 2
Trng. & Devl. - 1
RI - 1

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PP/P&O/Sec. - 1  
PP/Press - 1

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## Additional Background and Guidance on Recent Developments in Guatemala

### I BACKGROUND

1. On 3 June Cesar Montenegro Paniagua, chairman of the Labor-Dispute Committee of the Guatemala National Peasants Confederation and Communist member of Congress, announced at a press conference that the anti-communists in Guatemala were in danger of being beheaded should trouble start in that country. He stated "it is not necessary to have concentration camps because at the first shot we will order the beheading of all anti-communists".

2. On the same day Leonardo Castillo Flores, secretary-general of the peasant group, sent telegrams to all confederation chapters telling members, in view of the latest alleged plot against the Government, "to be very vigilant for acts of reactionary elements", and adding that should "anything new occur, the central committee will advise immediately as to how to proceed against the enemies of our revolution".

3. Meanwhile the nation's two big communist-controlled labor organizations - the General Confederation of Workers (CGTG) and the National Confederation of Farmers (CNCG) - have held mass rallies to organize vigilante defense units and to lay the foundations for militia to defend "the national sovereignty".

4. Impacto, a Guatemalan newspaper, called this the first step toward a peoples' army and warned against civil war forecasting that a word from Cesar Montenegro Castillo could "launch action against the defenseless people of the country and villages and cities and start a killing orgy without parallel in the country's history". The paper further called on the Arbenz government to calm the populace by assurances that a civilian army would not become a reality. Such assurances from the government have not been forthcoming.

5. To the contrary, on 8 June the Associated Press from Guatemala reported that "Guatemala's communist-backed government today ordered a 30-day suspension of constitutional guarantees. The action was taken at an extraordinary session of President Jacobo Arbenz Guzman's cabinet... Among the civil rights suspended was the constitutional article establishing freedom of expression and the press. The government clamped censorship on all outgoing dispatches of foreign news correspondents. A Government order said all such copy must be subject to approval before transmission".

### TREATMENT

1. Point out that Arbenz' action of suspending freedom of the press, immediately after the press criticized the communists for attempting to form a peoples' army to suppress anti-communists among the population, is clear proof, if more were needed, that the Guatemalan government is a pawn of international communism. An "Iron Curtain" has been drawn in Central America.

2. Emphasize that Arbenz by allowing the communists free rein in Guatemala will himself be the headsman if the National Peasant Confederation pursues its threat to order the "beheading of all anti-communists".

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3. Suggest

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3. Suggest that the disproportionately large satellite arms shipment recently received in Guatemala was destined for these communist paramilitary groups for use against non-communist elements in the population and that this shipment together with communist efforts to form peoples' militia presage a pogrom of all those who oppose Guatemala's communist regime.

4. Highlight the fact that suspension of civil liberties and the formation of communist paramilitary units to wipe out the opposition mark the complete satellization of Guatemala and indicate that Kremlin strategy for Guatemala no longer calls for disguised communist control but for complete communist dictatorship, with all its attendant evils.

5. Emphasize that the events in Guatemala exactly parallel events in Czechoslovakia which led to the communist coup. Recall that in Czechoslovakia the communists in the government charged the opposition with "reactionary plotting" and armed so-called communist action groups as well as "workers militia" which were ready at the time of the coup to take control of the life of the country at all levels.

6. The censorship imposed by Arbenz on reports of foreign news correspondents in Guatemala should be exploited as the act which makes the dropping of the iron curtain around Guatemala final.

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